

In the Claims

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

1-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) A method for treating Parkinson's disease in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering to the mammal an effective therapeutic amount of a compound that inhibits MLK activity and thereby prevent neuronal cell death occurring in a mammal susceptible to or having Parkinson's disease.

37-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein MLK is MLK1, MLK2 or MLK3, or combinations thereof.

40. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing neuronal cell death in a mammal susceptible to or having Parkinson's disease, comprising administering to the mammal in need thereof an effective therapeutic amount of a compound that inhibits MLK activity in a neuronal cell and thereby prevent neuronal cell death occurring in a mammal susceptible to or having Parkinson's disease.

41-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) A method for treating Parkinson's disease in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering to the mammal an effective therapeutic amount of a compound that inhibits MLK activity and thereby prevents neuronal cell death occurring in a mammal susceptible to or having Parkinson's disease, wherein the compound is identified by a method for

assessing a compound's ability to prevent neuronal cell death occurring in a mammal susceptible to or having Parkinson's disease, comprising:

- a) contacting a compound with neuronal cells having activated MLK activity; and
- b) determining the number of neuronal cells that die;

wherein a decreased number of dead neuronal cells in the presence of the compound compared to the number of dead neuronal cells in the absence of the compound is indicative of the compound's ability to prevent neuronal cell death occurring in a mammal susceptible to or having Parkinson's disease.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the mammal is a human.